

Pers 2 Eugene J.
McCarthy

POINT OF VIEW

No. 2 on Ticket Is a Problem

By MARY McGRORY

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The immutable fact that President Johnson will cast the deciding vote for his running-mate at the Democratic convention in August has done nothing to stop the furor of speculation in Democratic circles as to who the second man on the ticket could and should be.

The choice is considered crucial because President Johnson comes from a part of the country that has never before sent a man to the White House.

It is considered essential that he find someone who balances his rather flamboyant Texas qualities, which are regarded as exotic in the Northeastern and other large States.

While President Johnson has been unequivocally and increasingly committed on the issue of civil rights, he is still a dubious quantity among those liberal and intellectual branches of the party—many of them in the large states—who fought his nomination for the vice presidency in 1960.

But although he may not know until after the Republican convention in July exactly what he will need most in the way of a running-mate, Washington is awash in possibilities and promoters.

The talk centers around five men. The late President's brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy; his brother-in-law, Peace Corps Director R. Sargent Shriver; U. N. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, twice the Democratic nominee for the presidency; Senate whip Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota; and Eugene J. McCarthy, the junior Senator from the same State.

The presence of the Attorney General on the ticket—and it is argued that he could not refuse to do for Mr. Johnson what Mr. Johnson did for his brother—would lock up the Kennedy vote, and insure the success of the superlative campaign organization in the campaign. The Attorney General's future plans are not even



SENATOR MCCARTHY

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known to himself at the moment.

Mr. Shriver's nomination would also summon the Kennedy forces. If Robert Kennedy is out of the picture and President Johnson decides that he must appeal to the young people whom John F. Kennedy galvanized the world over, he might reach out for Mr. Shriver, head of the Peace Corps which epitomized the Kennedy vision of youth in service.

Mr. Shriver's drawback is that he has never run for public office.

Robert Kennedy has not discussed his feelings about the vice presidency. None of the other four has indicated any aversion to having the mantle fall on him.

Of them all, only Senator McCarthy, a relaxed handsome, 47-year-old intellectual, has received a public indorsement. Representative Celler of New York, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, on television two weeks ago pronounced his former House colleague "the best vice presidential candidate, and the strongest."

"He is," said Mr. Celler, "a scholarly gentleman, erudite and a real orator, who has carved out a remarkable career in the Senate."

Like Robert Kennedy and Mr. Shriver, Senator McCarthy

is a Catholic, and this is considered an asset. The fact would have been one of sardonic amusement to the late President, who up until the moment of his election was told that his religion was an insuperable obstacle to the White House. Now, all is changed.

Senator McCarthy is popular both among Catholics and liberals, who salute his independence. With President Kennedy, although on different grounds, he opposed Federal aid for parochial schools. He never pressed for United States representation at the Vatican.

He remarked dryly he did not regard the Holy See as a center of political power and would rather send an ambassador to the Pentagon or the First National Bank of New York.

A prominent church layman, he has been identified with the progressive elements in the church represented by the late Pope John XXIII.

Liberals remember gratefully his radio debate with the other Senator McCarthy at the height of the Red-hunting furor, when practically no one in the Congress would take on the Wisconsin Republican.

His friends point out that his wit, reflectiveness and detachment would provide an effective contrast to the Johnson manner.

He and Mr. Johnson enjoy a cordial relationship. The President was Senator McCarthy's second choice in 1960. The Senator was a Stevenson man, who breasted the Kennedy tide with a rousing speech nominating Mr. Stevenson that was the oratorical high-water mark of the Democratic convention. "Do not reject this man who made us proud to be Democrats," he thundered and the convention hall went wild.

Since then, he has spoken in almost every State. During his first term in the Senate, which expires next year, he has voted consistently with the New Frontier, although, he was regarded as a trifle too objective to be rated strictly as a Kennedy man.

One local observer pointed out that Senator McCarthy is an Irish Catholic without the built-in advantages of the breed, namely a big-city base. His home is in St. Paul, not a political powerhouse.

But his partisans insist that if the matter were put up to the members of the House and Senate who must run next year, he would be the first choice.

And if Lyndon Johnson turns to his old stamping-ground, the Congress, for a running-mate, Senator McCarthy might well be the man.